

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, the Republican tax cut plan of a trillion dollars is fiscally irresponsible and will leave a legacy of debt and deficit for the next generation of taxpayers, and that is why they only show us charts for the first 5 years of their tax cut plan. They do not show us the last 5 years where the tax cuts will explode and leave us with an enormous gap in the budget.

Their tax cut plan will create higher deficits and, therefore, create higher interest rates for American families and businesses.

That is not a value we Democrats share. Democrats believe that we have to pay down the national debt, and Republicans want a massive tax cut. Democrats value the contribution of seniors who have helped build families and community and who should be able to retire with dignity and health security. That is why we want to pay the debt, extend the life for Social Security and Medicare.

Republicans want to go on a wild tax cut spree that leaves nothing for Medicare, nothing for Social Security, and nothing for our prescription drug program. That is fiscal irresponsibility we cannot have. It is a value we do not share.

DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS DIFFER ON TAX PHILOSOPHIES

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, a lot of people say there is not much difference between Democrats and Republicans. But when it comes to taxes, it is clear that there are two quite different philosophies at work which guide the thinking of each side.

Democrats believe that the tax system is primarily a way to redistribute wealth; that is to say, take what belongs to one person and give it to someone else.

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Republicans, on the other hand, believe that the tax system is merely what is necessary to raise revenues for the constitutionally required functions of the Federal Government, which is principally to provide the common defense.

Democrats believe that a system that redistributes wealth is more fair than a system whereby people are entitled to the fruits of their labors to the maximum extent possible.

Democrats speak constantly of the fact that the wealthy, never defined, do not need a tax cut. Of course, by that logic a rich person does not need to be paid for any work that he performs. But they fail to recognize that the money earned by the wealthy or the middle class or whomever belongs to them. After all, they earned it.

REPUBLICANS THROW IN THE TOWEL ON SAVING SOCIAL SECURITY, MEDICARE AND PAYING DOWN DEBT

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, yesterday was a sad day for our Nation, a sad day because the Republicans threw in the towel. They gave up and they capitulated.

Rather than make the tough choices to save Social Security, to save Medicare, and to pay down a \$5 trillion debt, Republicans simply gave up and did what they thought was the easy thing to do, provide for an irresponsible tax cut that forecloses the financial future for many, many, many Americans who must rely on Social Security, who must rely on Medicare, and to the next generation that is hoping to have low interest rates, hoping to have a good economy so they can buy a house and form families and raise their children.

But, no, rather than pay down the debt, the Republicans would rather risk high interest rates for the whole Nation and for small businesses. We tried this once in 1980. It has taken us 20 years, I repeat, it has taken us 20 years to dig out of that debt that the Republicans gave us in 1980.

Now, for the first time in history, we have an opportunity to save Social Security, to save Medicare and to pay down the debt. But the Republicans have given up and thrown in the towel. How little courage they have.

REPUBLICANS BELIEVE IN TAX CUTS

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, there are a lot of Americans who believe that there is not much difference between Democrats and Republicans. Well, there certainly is here in the U.S. House of Representatives.

For example, let us consider taxes. The Democrats, under President Clinton, passed the largest increase in U.S. history back in 1993. The liberals have not stopped praising that tax increase ever since. The liberals are actually happy to raise taxes because that means more revenues for big government and more money to spend on their special interests.

Republicans believe that the government is too big and that Washington politicians have too much power. Republicans passed tax cuts last time and it is our goal to pass additional tax cuts this year. Let us get rid of the unfair marriage penalty, for example. Let us get rid of the death tax. Let us reduce taxes on all Americans.

The difference between Democrats and Republicans here in the House: The Democrats believe that the bureau-

crats here in Washington know best how to spend taxpayers' money. Republicans think that the American people are smart enough to know how to spend their own money.

WHEN WE PAY DOWN THE DEBT, AMERICANS GET A REAL BONUS

(Mr. WYNN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, every summer, particularly in election years, Republicans run down to the well and they give us their usual, a big tax break, as though that were the answer to all the problems. They insult the intelligence of many American people.

First, as usual, when we look behind the rhetoric, what we see is a tax break that basically benefits the very wealthy. But this year it is even worse because this is a fiscally irresponsible tax break that undermines our economy and creates higher deficits.

We on the Democratic side of the aisle have an alternative. We believe, number one, we need long-term solutions, not short-sighted and short-thinking solutions. We need solutions that, number one, protect Social Security. We need solutions that, number two, can pay down the debt.

When we pay down the debt the American people get a real bonus, they get lower interest rates, which helps them with buying houses and buying cars. That is what really matters. We need to pay down the debt, help families, help small businesses.

And, third, we need to strengthen Medicare. Now, we will not hear the Republicans say a thing about Medicare. We can strengthen Medicare and provide a prescription drug benefit for our senior citizens. That is the long-term solution, not the short-sighted solution the Republicans are offering.

REPUBLICANS WANT TO GIVE BACK MONEY TO TAXPAYERS; DEMOCRATS WANT TO SPEND IT

(Mr. WELDON of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the liberal Democrats, the liberal editorial pages, the President, they are all singing off the same sheet of music with remarkable harmony these last few days. They have called the Republican tax cut proposal "risky." I am not surprised.

But for Republicans, what is far riskier is keeping the Federal budget surplus in Washington, D.C. "Trust us," these liberal politicians will say. "We won't spend it." "Really," they say, "we will use it for debt reduction. Trust us, we won't spend it. Trust us, we won't spend it."

Now, I really do not know what to say to people who think that politicians in Washington can be trusted not

to spend this pot of money. If the choice is between giving the money back to the people who earned it or spending it, the Democrats will spend it. Republicans will not spend it. They want to give it back to the people who earned it. It is their money in the first place.

DEMOCRATS WANT TO PAY OFF THE DEBT

(Mr. RANGEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is interesting that the last Speaker would say that if the money from the so-called surplus is left in Washington that Americans should not trust us because "we" would spend it. The last I heard, the Republicans were the "we". The Republicans are in the majority.

If the Republicans are so fractionalized, if they are so disorganized that basically they are saying we should take the surplus and get it out of here as quick as we can and stop us before we hurt the Nation any further, then I understand the argument.

But if it is that no matter what economist we might listen to, no matter what American we might talk to, the whole idea of the surplus is that the President says that we are close to \$4 trillion, we now have the ability to pay off some of that debt, and we should do that. And that is what we are talking about on our side.

BIPARTISAN WORKING GROUP TO TAKE COMPREHENSIVE LOOK INTO YOUTH VIOLENCE

(Mr. WAMP asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, I am not a fan of these 1-minute speeches. Usually I do not do this. As we can all see, it devolves sometimes into a partisan food fight.

I come today to praise a bipartisan approach to the number one domestic issue, in my opinion, and that is youth violence. At the initiative of the Speaker of the House, working with the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT), the minority leader, they have appointed a bipartisan working group, 10 Republicans, 10 Democrats, co-chaired by the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. DUNN) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FROST), and I am the vice chairman of this group.

For the next 2 months we will look in a bipartisan way at a comprehensive approach to youth violence. Guns, school security, breakdown of the family, influence of the mass media, a comprehensive approach to do what we can in the Congress to address this critical issue in a bipartisan way.

We need more approaches like this one where we can work together, because we are all serving the same people.

COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS BY ALL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES PRODUCE RESULTS

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the suspect for the heinous railroad killings has been caught. Resendez-Ramirez turned himself in to the INS installation in El Paso.

Let me applaud the collaboration of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, with Don Clark leading the effort in Houston, Texas, along with U.S. Marshal Contreras, the Texas Rangers, and, of course, the INS. Collaboration among law enforcement agencies is extremely important.

It is extremely important to recognize that while this alleged perpetrator and killer will probably be indicted for murder, he is not representative of the hard-working, taxpaying immigrants who live in our communities.

Mr. Speaker, I wanted to acknowledge the importance of collaboration between our law enforcement entities and to encourage the continuation of such collaboration which will, hopefully, correct the initial problem that allowed this gentleman, this person, to get away after crossing the border. We must fight illegal immigration but we must recognize the value of those hard-working immigrants.

I want to applaud again the collaborative work of our law enforcement agencies for a job well done.

FAIRNESS IN TAX CODE SHOULD BE ADDRESSED AS WELL AS TAX CUTS

(Mr. BAIRD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, like my colleagues, I want to insist that as we look towards tax changes and towards the budget, we set first and foremost the priority of paying down the debt and of protecting Social Security and Medicare.

But, Mr. Speaker, if we are going to address tax cuts, there is one which we should address first and foremost, and that has to do with restoring fairness to the tax code. Currently, a small number of States subsidize the rest of the Federal Government. Those States in which we have sales tax but no income tax pay higher taxes than those in other States with an income tax. The reason is that those with sales taxes are not allowed to deduct their sales tax from their Federal income tax returns. Some of the States include Washington State, my own, Tennessee, Nevada, Texas, and Florida.

Mr. Speaker, hard-working men and women and their families deserve the same tax break in those States as in the rest of the country. And if we are going to make changes to the tax code,

let us begin by restoring fairness, by allowing a simple change to the code and allowing people to deduct either their State income tax or the amount they pay in State sales tax from their Federal tax return.

REPUBLICANS AND DEMOCRATS DIFFER IN CORE BELIEFS

(Mr. FOSSELLA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, today we are hearing the debate as to what we are going to do with the projected taxpayers' surplus. As Americans follow this debate, I think they should just be concerned with where we are going in our core principles.

In the way I view it, we have one side that agrees with personal freedom and the other side that wants more government control; one that says lower taxes, another that says we need higher taxes; limited government versus big government; economic growth versus bureaucratic growth here in Washington; more jobs across America or more red tape that will only stifle growth, stifle inhibition, stifle creativity and decrease the number of jobs.

So as we debate the taxpayers' surplus that the Americans have generated each and every day, let us remind ourselves of what the core principles are: Do we believe in the American people; do we believe in the American spirit; do we believe in economic growth? Or do we believe that total faith on how to spend the taxpayers' money should be made here in Washington?

WE SHOULD CONTINUE DOWN THE PATH OF FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

(Mr. LEVIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I am glad I am coming right after that last 1-minute. It is pure nonsense.

This \$864 billion bill that was reported out of the Committee on Ways and Means last night is fiscally irresponsible. It sacrifices the future of Social Security and also of Medicare on the altar of that kind of political hype from the Republicans.

Let me read from a Republican, his comment, the gentleman from Delaware. "I am not exactly sure in all of this," and I quote, "how Medicare is going to be solved. And there is no consideration for debt retirement; virtually no consideration for emergency spending. This is all very problematical. The size of it creates some real problems." And then he goes on to say that it is a political statement.

It is indeed a political statement. It gambles with the future of Social Security and it gambles with the future of Medicare. Look, that is not conservatism, it is fiscal radicalism. We need